

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W
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R 071727Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1116
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4266

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SO, IT
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER JAMA BARRE

1. SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER JAMA BARRE STOPPED OVER IN ROME
MARCH 4 ON WAY HOME FROM TRIPOLI AND MET WITH ITALIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER FORLANI. JAMA BARRE GAVE HIS VIEWS OF TRIPOLI CONFER-
ENCE AND SIAD BARRE'S VISIT TO LIBYA.

2. ACCORDING TO MFA, JAMA BARRE SAID THAT AT TRIPOLI HE MET
WITH NEARLY EVERY FOREIGN MINISTER THERE AND FOUND UNDERSTAND-
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ING FOR SOMALI POSITION IN OGADEN CONFLICT. HE ADDED THAT
DESPITE STRONG SOVIET EFFORTS TO CONVINCE CONFERENCE
PARTICIPANTS TO CONDEMN SOMALIA, NO SUCH RESOLUTION WAS
PASSED. WHILE OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS REITERATED THEIR
SUPPORT OF PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, THEY ALSO,
ACCORDING TO JAMA BARRE, RECOGNIZED NEED FOR READJUST-
MENT OF "UNJUST" BORDERS. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED UNHAPPI-

NESS WITH SOVIET PRESENCE IN AFRICA.

3. AS TO SIAD BARRE VISIT TO TRIPOLI, JAMA BARRE SAID THAT IDEA OF TRIP WAS INITIATED BY SOMALIS. SIAD BARRE HOPED THAT QADHAFI, AS ANOTHER ISLAMIC LEADER IN AFRICA AND AS INTERLOCUTOR OF ETHIOPIANS AND SOVEITS, WOULD BE WILLING AND ABLE TO PLAY ROLE HELPFUL TO SOMALIA. WHILE SIAD BARRE DID NOT GET MUCH OUT OF TRIP, HE DID DETECT SOME SYMPATHY ON QADHAFI'S PART FOR PINCIPLE OF "SELF-DETERMINATION OF ISLAMIC PEOPLE."

4. JAMA BARRE REITERATED TO FORLANI THAT SOMALIS ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN UN ACTION BUT ARE RELYING ON OAU MEDIATION. THEY BELIEVE THAT NIGERIANS UNDERSTAND THEIR VIEWS AND CONSIDER SOMALI POSITION THE BASIS ON WHICH PEACE CAN BE NEGOTIATED.

5. WHILE JAMA BARRE DID NOT ON THIS VISIT REPEAT EARLIER WARNING THAT WITHOUT WESTERN SUPPORT SIAD BARRE WILL EITHER TURN BACK TO SOVIETS OR BE OVERTHROWN BY PRO-SOVIET ELEMENTS, MFA REITERATED ITALIAN VIEW THAT GREATER DANGER TO SIAD BARRE COMES FROM CONSERVATIVE ISLAMIC ELEMENTS WHO WISH SIAD BARRE TO GO FURTHER IN UNDOING SOCIALIST SYSTEM AND WHO BELIEVE THAT HIS EFFORTS TO WIN BACK OGADEN WERE INSUFFICIENT.HOLMES

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